

*In the Claims*

Please cancel claim 1 without prejudice.

Please add the following new claims:

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12. A method of screening a digital recording apparatus to determine whether a digital signal may be received by the digital recording apparatus, comprising the steps of:

detecting copyright protection information provided in a transmission header of a transmission frame of a digital signal to be inputted to the digital recording apparatus;

detecting whether the digital recording apparatus performs processing in compliance with the copyright protection information; and

allowing the digital signal to be received by the digital recording apparatus in response to a detection that the digital recording apparatus performs processing in compliance with the copyright protection information.

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13. The method of claim 12, wherein the digital recording apparatus receives the digital signal via an interface based on an IEEE 1394 format.

14. The method of claim 12, wherein if the digital recording apparatus is a recording apparatus having hardware which does not perform processing of data in compliance with the copyright protection information, the transmission frame is supplied to the digital recording apparatus only when the copyright protection information indicates copy free.

15. The method of claim 12, wherein if the digital recording apparatus is a recording apparatus having hardware which performs processing of data in compliance with the copyright protection information, based upon the copyright protection information a digital interface detects whether the copyright protection information

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included in content of the transmission frame indicates the compliance, and if so, the copyright protection information in the content is acquired based on signal format type information of the transmission header.

16. An interface for screening a digital recording apparatus to determine whether a digital signal may be received by the digital recording apparatus, comprising:

means for detecting copyright protection information provided in a transmission header of a transmission frame of a digital signal to be inputted to the digital recording apparatus; and

means for detecting whether the digital recording apparatus performs processing in compliance with the copyright protection information, wherein

in response to a detection that the digital recording apparatus performs processing in compliance with the copyright protection information the digital signal is provided to the digital recording apparatus.

17. The interface of claim 16, wherein the interface receives the digital signal based upon an IEEE 1394 format.

18. A control IC for controlling a link layer of a digital interface, comprising:

means for detecting copyright protection information provided in a transmission header of a transmission frame of a digital signal inputted through the digital interface, and

means for receiving the transmission frame and for allowing recording by a digital recording apparatus if the copyright protection information indicates copy free.

19. The control IC of claim 18, wherein the control IC is mounted on the digital recording apparatus, the control IC further comprising:

switching means for supplying the transmission frame to the digital recording signal processing section only when the copyright protection information indicates copy free.

20. The control IC as claimed in claim 18, wherein the control IC is mounted on the digital recording apparatus, the control IC further comprising:

a processor for detecting, based on the copyright protection information, whether the copyright protection information included in content of the transmission frame indicates compliance; and

means for acquiring the copyright protection information in the content based on the signal format type information in the transmission header if the processor detects compliance.

21. An interface for screening a digital recording apparatus to determine whether a digital signal may be received by the digital recording apparatus, comprising:

a first detector for detecting copyright protection information provided in a transmission header of a transmission frame of a digital signal to be inputted to the digital recording apparatus; and

a second detector for detecting whether the digital recording apparatus performs processing in compliance with the copyright protection information, wherein

in response to a detection that the digital recording apparatus performs processing in compliance with the copyright protection information the digital signal is provided to the digital recording apparatus.

22. The interface of claim 21, wherein the interface receives the digital signal based upon an IEEE 1394 format.

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23. A control IC for controlling a link layer of a digital interface, comprising:

a detector for detecting copyright protection information provided in a transmission header of a transmission frame of a digital signal inputted through the digital interface, and

a receiver for receiving the transmission frame and for allowing recording by a digital recording apparatus if the copyright protection information indicates copy free.

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24. The control IC of claim 23, wherein the control IC is mounted on the digital recording apparatus, the control IC further comprising:

a switch for supplying the transmission frame to the digital recording signal processing section only when the copyright protection information indicates copy free.

25. The control IC as claimed in claim 23, wherein the control IC is mounted on the digital recording apparatus, the control IC further comprising:

a processor for detecting, based on the copyright protection information, whether the copyright protection information included in content of the transmission frame indicates compliance; and

a receiver for acquiring the copyright protection information in the content based on the signal format type information in the transmission header if the processor detects compliance.--